

**The University of Hong Kong
Faculty of Architecture
Bachelor of Arts in Urban Studies**

The Bachelor of Arts in Urban Studies [BA(US)] is an interdisciplinary, studio-based and professionally-oriented programme offered by the Department of Urban Planning and Design. It is designed to equip you with a wide range of knowledge about cities and city systems that provides an essential basis for a variety of urban professions.

Understanding cities is the first step towards planning better ones. Urban planning has existed as a vital social function since antiquity. Modern urban planning initially arose in response to public health scares such as cholera pandemics in the crowded cities of the late 19th century. As science and technology grew in sophistication, so did urban planning's sphere of influence and goals. The modern urban planning profession turned to urban systems design and management, implemented via control of land and development, and the balancing and coordination of the multiple private plans that create and sustain a city, with a critical eye on an adequate supply of the shared 'public goods' that enhance the shared benefits of living in a city and mitigate the shared disbenefits (e.g. various forms of congestion).

Our programme therefore places a strong emphasis on understanding the dynamics of cities and systems of cities; and the way public policy, urban management and design interventions interact positively and negatively with the spontaneous social and economic processes that make up city life. We place importance on research, applied statistical analysis, observation and communication, and introduce you to theories and methods, design thinking and design skills during the four years of study. Through integrated problem-based learning, you will analyse urban problems from multiple perspectives and propose appropriate policy, regulatory, design and other interventions. Upon graduation, you will acquire skills in spatial analysis that allow you to investigate the urban economy, society and environment, and become an expert in understanding how land, property development, government policy and laws shape cities.

The BA(US) curriculum is aligned to prepare students to become professional surveyors in the planning and development stream of the surveying profession, and more generally, future global urban leaders. You will apply your knowledge to urban issues in Hong Kong and elsewhere. Overseas student exchange programmes and professional training through internships are strongly encouraged in the BA(US) programme.

Our BA(US) graduates may go on to become professional urban planners after pursuing our Master of Science in Urban Planning, Hong Kong's only professional postgraduate degree programme in planning accredited by the Hong Kong Institute of Planners (HKIP) and the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI). You can also continue your studies in other professional postgraduate programmes in

urban analytics, urban design, housing management, transport policy and planning, landscape architecture, conservation, environment and real estate, at HKU or other local/overseas universities.

BA(US) is professionally accredited by:

- The Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors (HKIS) – in the Planning and Development Division
- The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS)

Find out more: www.arch.hku.hk/baus